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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,515	12/13/2001	Satoshi Mekata	542-003-3	2642

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WARE FRESSOLA VAN DER SLUYS &
ADOLPHSON, LLP
BRADFORD GREEN, BUILDING 5
755 MAIN STREET, P O BOX 224
MONROE, CT 06468

EXAMINER

PRYOR, ALTON NATHANIEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1616

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/09/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/018,515

Applicant(s)

MEKATA ET AL.

Examiner

Alton N. Pryor

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed 5/11/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. See argument below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 22 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. New claims 23 and 24 are added to this rejection. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification and examples therein disclose that the aerosol device must have the above parts and must contain a composition. Claim 22 drawn to a device without the inclusion of a composition is new matter since the device disclosed in the specification contains a composition.

Response to Applicants' Argument

Applicants are of the opinion that adding composition is not necessary since liquefied gas (aerosol composition) cited in the claims is a disposable substance and it is not a mechanical part or a permanent part of the claimed device. Applicant further argue 1) that claim 22 is in an "open" form and does not have to necessarily recite all

the parts of the device and 2) that the claim recites "An intermittent aerosol dispensing device for application of a product to skin of a human being", makes it clear that an aerosol composition is used in the device. Applicants point out further that claim 22 recites "said cylinder communicating with the product, pressurized in said can" makes it even more clear that an aerosol composition is used in the device.

Examiner argues that the preamble recites "An intermittent aerosol dispensing device for application of a product to skin of a human being,". This does not require the device to contain a composition and all the other references to "product" or "composition" in the claim do not require the device claim to require the "product" or "composition" but instead informs an artisan that a "composition" or "product" may be present for the device's intended use. For this reason the rejection is maintained.

Applicant has made corrections such that terms, "a needle", "a hollow piston", "a first spring means tending", a second spring means tending" are no longer read as new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 22 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiroshi (JP 11-342202; 12/14/99). New claims 23 and 24 are added to this rejection. Hiroshi teaches the aerosol device as claimed. The aerosol device according to Figures 1-10 in

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Hiroshi comprises a cylinder (3), port (40b), nozzle (36b), piston (4), needle valve (7), first coil spring (7), second coil spring (5), and pressure chamber (40,41) as instantly claimed. See abstract, Figures 1-10. Note the terms / phrases: "needle", "hollow piston", "first spring means tending" and "second spring means tending" are being interpreted as "a needle valve", "a piston", a first coil spring" and "a second coil spring" respectively to arrive at the 102(b) rejection.

Response to Applicants' Argument

Applicant argues that Hiroshi does not teach or suggest the instant ratio of injection time to stop time is set to 0.1 to 5.0 when the valve is open.

Examiner points out that Applicant admits that the injection time to stop is functional language of the device being claimed. Examiner would like to iterate that the device appears to be same in terms of composition in Hiroshi and instant invention and for this reason would be believed to have the same function. Functional language can add patentable significance to a claim, if it could be proven that the earlier invention could not have performed the instant function. Thus far Applicant has not shown that Hiroshi's device can not produced the instant function of the injection stop time. For this reason the rejection on record is maintained.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Telephonic Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alton N. Pryor whose telephone number is 571-272-0621. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

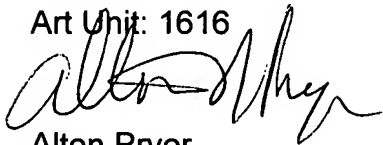
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alton Pryor', written in a cursive style.

Alton Pryor
Primary Examiner
AU 1616